



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6931

January Session, 2001

***AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION AND EQUITABLE WAGES FOR
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) There is established, within the Department of
2 Social Services, a Scholarship, Training and Retention of Preschool
3 Teachers program, which shall be known as the START program to:

4 (1) Provide state funded scholarships to enable early childhood
5 education teachers and assistants to obtain (A) a child development
6 associate certificate; (B) a one-year certificate in early childhood
7 education or child development from an accredited institution of
8 higher education; (C) an associate degree in early childhood education
9 or child development from such an institution; (D) a four-year degree
10 in early childhood education or child development from such an
11 institution; or (E) a master's degree in early childhood education or
12 child development from such an institution; and

13 (2) Establish an apprenticeship program for early childhood
14 education professionals, which program shall (A) comply with the
15 minimum standards of apprenticeship established by the Connecticut
16 State Apprenticeship Council, (B) be adopted and registered with the
17 council under sections 31-51a to 31-51e, inclusive, of the general
18 statutes, (C) be jointly administered by labor and management
19 trustees, and (D) include agreements with the Department of Social

20 Services and the Labor Department regarding funding for wage
21 increases for apprentices participating in the program.

22 (b) Any applicant for a scholarship available under subdivision (1)
23 of subsection (a) of this section shall make application for such
24 scholarship on a form prescribed and furnished by Connecticut Charts-
25 A-Course. Connecticut Charts-A-Course shall review all applications
26 submitted and award the scholarships on a competitive basis, giving
27 preference to any applicant who has entered into a partnership
28 agreement with a sponsoring day care center, under the terms of
29 which agreement, (1) the applicant agrees to remain employed by such
30 sponsoring day care center for at least one year following attainment of
31 the early childhood education or child development credential or
32 degree funded by the scholarship or repay the full amount of the
33 scholarship, and (2) the sponsoring day care center enters into an
34 agreement with the Department of Social Services to increase the
35 applicant's hourly wage in accordance with the provisions of section 2
36 of this act.

37 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) Each day care center shall increase the hourly
38 wage of each START program participant employed by such center by
39 an amount equal to the greater of one dollar per hour or five per cent
40 upon the participant's successful completion of each six-month unit of
41 education or training in early childhood education or child
42 development.

43 (b) The Department of Social Services shall provide increased
44 funding to such day care center, in accordance with the provisions of
45 section 4 of this act, for the purpose of providing partial
46 reimbursement to such day care center for expenses incurred as a
47 result of complying with the provisions of subsection (a) of this
48 section.

49 Sec. 3. (NEW) (a) Effective January 1, 2002, each day care center that
50 receives a majority of its funds from state or federal sources shall pay
51 its employees on an hourly basis at a rate not less than (1) seventy-five

52 per cent of the rate paid to an education assistant employed by the
53 state at step one of the wage scale, effective January 1, 2002, (2) ninety
54 per cent of the rate paid to an education assistant employed by the
55 state at step one of the wage scale, effective January 1, 2003, and (3)
56 one hundred per cent of the rate paid to an education assistant
57 employed by the state at step one of the wage scale, effective January 1,
58 2004.

59 (b) In addition to the rate set forth in subsection (a) of this section,
60 each day care center that does not provide health, welfare and
61 retirement benefits to its employees, shall pay to each employee an
62 amount equal to thirty per cent of the hourly rate paid to such
63 employee.

64 (c) All employees of nonprofit programs providing early childhood
65 care or education who are not otherwise covered by employer-
66 sponsored health insurance plans shall be eligible to purchase health
67 insurance coverage through HUSKY Part B on a sliding scale premium
68 basis.

69 Sec. 4. (NEW) (a) There is established and created a fund to be
70 known as the "Early Child Care and Education Quality Enhancement
71 Fund" to assist state or federally funded day care centers in attracting
72 and retaining highly qualified early childhood teachers and assistants.

73 (b) Upon execution of an agreement between a day care center and
74 the Department of Social Services, moneys allocated to the Early Child
75 Care and Education Quality Enhancement Fund shall be used to
76 increase the rate of reimbursement to day care centers in an amount
77 equal to eighty per cent of the increased cost of wages and benefits
78 paid to START program participants employed by such centers
79 pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of section 2 of this act and
80 section 3 of this act. Such increased reimbursement rate shall take
81 effect not later than thirty days after notification by a day care center to
82 the Department of Social Services that agreed-upon requirements have
83 been met, and shall be incorporated into the regular reimbursement

84 agreement for such center in subsequent fiscal years. At the end of
85 each fiscal year, the Department of Social Services shall calculate the
86 proportional share of such payments attributable to state or federally
87 funded day care slots and shall reimburse the fund from these funding
88 sources.

89 Sec. 5. (NEW) No state or federally funded day care center shall
90 encourage or discourage its employees from engaging in collective
91 bargaining.

92 Sec. 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

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JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST. C/R

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